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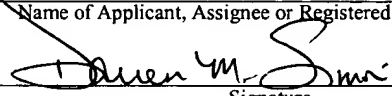
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Tetsujiro KONDO et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 02/07/2005
Serial No. : 09/887,635 Confirmation No. 7459
For : **IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD,
AND STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR**
Filed : June 22, 2001
Examiner : D. Mariam
Art Unit : 2621

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New York, New York 10151

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope
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Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 18, 2005

Darren M. Simon, Reg. No. 47,946

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative


Signature

March 18, 2005

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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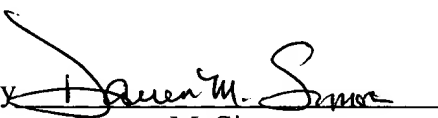
Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed February 7, 2005. To the extent the Examiner's
Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are

allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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